

## BONE PLATE ASSEMBLY

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to a plating system for anterior fixation of the spine that utilizes a fixation plate. The plating system stabilizes the spine and promotes fusion and incorporation of a graft in a portion of the spinal column. The plating system includes a fixation plate and bone screws that extend through holes in the plate to rigidly secure the plate to vertebrae. The plating system also includes a retainer assembly that prevents screw back out. Methods and instruments relating to the plating system are also described.